

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a sheath comprising a proximal end and a distal end;

a handle at the proximal end of the sheath; and

a basket having a collapsed position when the basket is within the sheath and collapsed and an expanded position when the basket is positioned beyond the distal end of the sheath and expanded, the basket comprising a plurality of wires, a proximal end, and a distal end where the distal ends of the plurality of wires are joined at a joint configured to fail when a first predetermined force is applied to the joint, the distal ends of the plurality of wires releasing from each other when the joint fails, the first predetermined force being less than both a force required to cause one of the plurality of wires to fail and a force required to cause the proximal end of the basket to fail;

wherein the basket distal end comprises a tip member, and the tip member releases from the plurality of wires when the joint fails.

39. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 38, wherein the a cross-section of at least one of the plurality of wires is D-shaped.

40. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ a cross-section of at least one of the plurality of wires is V-shaped.

41. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, each of the plurality of wires comprises a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end of at least one wire is scored.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein each of the plurality of wires comprises four bends.

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the basket in the expanded position is wider at the distal end than at the proximal end.

45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the radial stiffness of at least one wire is greater than 0.7 g/mm.

46-47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 47,~~ A medical device, comprising:  
a sheath comprising a proximal end and a distal end;  
a handle at the proximal end of the sheath; and

a basket having a collapsed position when the basket is within the sheath and collapsed and an expanded position when the basket is positioned beyond the distal end of the sheath and expanded, the basket comprising a plurality of wires, a proximal end, and a distal end where the distal ends of the plurality of wires are joined at a joint configured to fail when a first predetermined force is applied to the joint, the distal ends of the plurality of wires releasing from each other when the joint fails, the first predetermined force being less than both a force required to cause one of the plurality of wires to fail and a force required to cause the proximal end of the basket to fail;

wherein the basket distal end comprises a tip member; and

wherein the tip member is tubular and comprises a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending at least partially therethrough, the lumen of the tubular tip member is adapted to receive an end of the basket wires therein.

49. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 48, wherein the tip member is sealed at the distal end.

50. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 48, wherein the distal end of the tip member has a spherico-conical shape.

51. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the basket distal end comprises at least one of a weld joint, an over-molding joint, an adhesive joint, or a solder joint.

52-56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented). The device of claim 38, wherein the handle is detachable.

58. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 38, wherein:  
the ~~distal~~ joint applies a retention force on the plurality of wires;  
the plurality of wires applies a tension force on the ~~distal~~ joint when force is applied to the basket; and  
the tension force exceeds the retention force when the force applied to the basket exceeds the first predetermined force.

59. (Currently Amended) A medical device, comprising:  
a sheath comprising a proximal end and a distal end;  
a handle at the proximal end of the sheath; and  
a basket having a collapsed position when the basket is positioned within the sheath and an expanded position when the basket is positioned beyond the distal end of the sheath, the basket comprising a plurality of wires having respective proximal ends joined at a proximal joint and respective distal ends joined at a distal joint, wherein the distal joint is configured to fail when a first predetermined force is applied to the basket, the proximal end is configured to fail when a second predetermined force is applied to the basket, and at least one of the plurality of wires is configured to fail at a third

predetermined force, the first predetermined force being less than the second and third predetermined forces;

wherein the basket distal end comprises a tip member, and the tip member releases from the plurality of wires when the distal joint fails.

60. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 59, wherein:  
the distal joint applies a retention force on the plurality of wires;  
the plurality of wires applies a tension force on the distal joint when force is applied to the basket; and  
the tension force exceeds the retention force when the force applied to the basket exceeds the first predetermined force.

61. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 59, wherein the distal joint is at least one of a weld joint, an over-molding joint, an adhesive joint, or a solder joint.

62. (Currently Amended) ~~The medical device of claim 59,~~ A medical device,  
comprising:

a sheath comprising a proximal end and a distal end;  
a handle at the proximal end of the sheath; and  
a basket having a collapsed position when the basket is positioned within the sheath and an expanded position when the basket is positioned beyond the distal end of the sheath, the basket comprising a plurality of wires having respective proximal ends

joined at a proximal joint and respective distal ends joined at a distal joint, wherein the distal joint is configured to fail when a first predetermined force is applied to the basket, the proximal end is configured to fail when a second predetermined force is applied to the basket, and at least one of the plurality of wires is configured to fail at a third predetermined force, the first predetermined force being less than the second and third predetermined forces, wherein:

the distal joint includes a tubular tip member having a lumen extending at least partially therethrough;

the respective distal ends of the plurality of wires are disposed within the lumen;  
and

the tip member exerts a pressure on the respective distal ends of the plurality of wires disposed within the lumen.

63. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 62, wherein:

the distal joint applies a retention force on the plurality of wires as a function of the exerted pressure;

the plurality of wires applies a tension force on the distal joint when force is applied to the basket; and

the tension force exceeds the retention force when the force applied to the basket exceeds the first predetermined force.

64. (Previously Presented) A medical device, comprising:

a sheath comprising a proximal end and a distal end;

a handle at the proximal end of the sheath;

a basket having a collapsed position when the basket is positioned within the sheath and an expanded position when the basket is positioned beyond the distal end of the sheath, the basket having respective proximal and distal ends comprising a plurality of wires having respective proximal and distal ends, the wires configured to fail when a first predetermined force is applied to the basket; and

a tubular tip member having a lumen at least partially extending therethrough and surrounding at least a portion of each distal end of each of the plurality of wires, the tip member configured to exert a pressure on the plurality of wires to retain the wires within the lumen;

wherein the tip member is configured to fail when a second predetermined force is applied to the basket, the second predetermined force being less than the first predetermined force;

wherein the proximal end of the basket is configured to fail when a third predetermined force is applied to the basket, the third predetermined force being greater than the second predetermined force.

65. (Currently Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a sheath comprising a proximal end and a distal end;

a handle at the proximal end of the sheath; and

a basket having a collapsed position when the basket is within the sheath and collapsed and an expanded position when the basket is positioned beyond the distal end of the sheath and expanded, the basket comprising a plurality of wires, a proximal

end, and a distal end where the distal ends of the plurality of wires are joined, the distal ends of the plurality of wires releasing from each other when a predetermined force applied to the basket is less than both a force required to cause one of the plurality of wires to fail and a force required to cause the proximal end of the basket to fail, wherein the basket distal end comprises an over-molding joint;

wherein the basket distal end comprises a tip member, and the tip member releases from the plurality of wires when the joint fails.

66. (Currently Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a sheath comprising a proximal end and a distal end;

a handle at the proximal end of the sheath; and

a basket having a collapsed position when the basket is within the sheath and collapsed and an expanded position when the basket is positioned beyond the distal end of the sheath and expanded, the basket comprising a plurality of wires, a proximal end, and a distal end where the distal ends of the plurality of wires are joined at a joint, the distal ends of the plurality of wires releasing from each other when a predetermined force applied to the basket is less than both a force required to cause one of the plurality of wires to fail and a force required to cause the proximal end of the basket to fail, wherein at least one wire comprises stainless steel;

wherein the basket distal end comprises a tip member, and the tip member releases from the plurality of wires when the joint fails.